Vol. IX. Numb. 15

THE OBSERVATOR.

More Reflexions on the late rebellious Tumult. On the Duty of Juſtices of Peace in that Caſe, and the Defects of ſome of them. Unanſwerable Arguments from the Liturgy to prove, that the Church of England *allows us to reſiſt tyrannical and arbitrary Power. The Blaſphemy and Hypocriſy of the Faction prov'd. Their Prayers heard againſt themſelves. Their Deſign to ſet the City on Fire, and to murder Perſons of Note.*

From Saturday, March 4. to Wednesday, March 8. 1709.

Obſ. WHAT News from *London* now, *Roger?* Is the Rebellion there quite ſuppreſs'd?

Country-m. Yes, Maſter, bleſſed be God for it, the open Rebellion is ſuppreſs'd, and the Weakneſs of the Faction's Military, as well as of their Pulpit Champions, is now viſible to all the World; for a few of the Guards diſpers'd them at the firſt Onſet; tho' I can aſſure you this was no ordinary 'Prentice Mob, but the whole *Poſſe* of the trayterous Faction in *London*, *Weſtminſter*, and *Southwark*, and the Suburbs, conſiſting of Papiſts and Nonjurors, and other Enemies to her Majeſty's Title and Government, who in a rebellious Manner, appear'd in many Places of the ſaid Cities and Suburbs with Weapons in their Hands, and with Force broke open and enter'd divers Houſes, and offer'd Violence to the Perſons and Coaches of ſeveral of the Subjects, as her Majeſty's gracious Proclamation informs us.

Obſ. And what's to be done with them, *Roger?*

Country-m. Her Majeſty has promis'd, Maſter, that all ſuch Rioters, Traytors, and Rebels, and their Accompliçes, Adherents, Abettors, and Adviſers ſhall be proceeded againſt according to the utmoſt Severity of Law; and her Majeſty requires all her good Subjects to uſe their utmoſt Endeavours to apprehend all ſuch Rioters, Traytors, Rebels, and their Accomplices, and offers 100 *l.* Reward for the Diſcovery of any ſuch Incendiaries, as have been the Occaſion of thoſe Tumults and Diſorders, and active in exciting and ſtirring up the ſame. Pray, Maſter, give me your Opinion what Puniſhment they deſerve; for ſome call it only a Riot, and have admitted ſome of the Criminals to Bail; but our *London* Juſtices acted a more honeſt Part, and would take Bail for none of thoſe ſeiz'd in their Liberties.

Obſ. I am glad to hear our *London* Juſtices are Perſons of ſo much good Senſe, *Roger*, and ſorry to hear, that there are Juſtices or others any where elſe, that either have ſo little Senſe or Honeſty as to admit Fellows to Bail, who were taken in open Rebellion; not only againſt the known Laws of the Land, as the Proclamation expreſſes it, but againſt the very Legiſlature, while ſitting and proſecuting the notorious Fomenter of this Rebellion, which is Treaſon in the higheſt Degree, not only againſt Authority, but her Majeſty's ſacred Perſon, and thoſe of her two Houſes of Parliament. I can ſcarcely think any Body could be ſo ignorant of our Law; therefore this muſt proceed from Malice and Diſaffection to the Government. No Juſtice of Peace that knows the Duty of his Office, or has look'd upon *Dalton*, or the Statute-Books, could be ignorant, that riſing in Arms againſt the ſupream Power, is Rebellion, and that breaking up, and burning Houſes, is Felony; and ſince the Truth of the Fact was known to every Juſtice about Town, 'tis very ſtrange that any of 'em could be ſo far miſtaken in their Commitments. This proves what you and I have ſo frequently inſiſted upon, *Roger*, *viz.* the Neceſſity of a Reform thro' the Nation among thoſe who are in Places of Power and Truſt, which I hope the Legiſlature will take Care of, for good Laws ſignify nothing, if the Execution of them be committed to bad or ignorant Men. The Juſtices of *Weſtminſter* might eaſily have prevented all this, ſince they knew that Mr. *Burges*'s Dwelling-Houſe and Meeting-Houſe were aſſaulted the Night before the great rebellious Tumult; had they but look'd upon *Dalton*, they might eaſily have ſeen their Duty and their Power too in ſuch Caſes. However, there may be a Providence in it, that the rebellious Faction have thereby made a farther Diſcovery of their trayterous Intentions, than otherwiſe they could have done; which I hope will open the Eyes of the Nation, and let them ſee what our high-flying Clergy, and their Trumpeters of Rebellion, *Sacheverell*, *Higgins*, and others, have been carrying on under the Notion of Paſſive-Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance, and a falſe Pretext of Zeal for the Monarchy and the Church.

Country-m. 'Tis an Amazement to me, Maſter, to think of thoſe Mens groſs Hypocriſy, and how they could ever delude the Mob to that Degree they have done, with their trayterous Notions of Paſſive-Obedience. Certainly thoſe Clergy-men muſt be the moſt blaſphemous, perjur'd, and trayterous Hypocrites, and their Mob the moſt ſeditious and villainous Fellows in the World.

Obſ. Hold, hold, *Roger*, your Paſſion overflows; you muſt keep your Temper.

Country-m. I know what I ſay, Maſter, and defy *Sacheverell* and his Faction to anſwer or diſprove it. Is not our Common-Prayer-Book eſtabliſh'd by Law, to be the Worſhip of the Church of *England?* Are not all our benefic'd Clergy oblig'd to give Aſſent and Conſent to it? And did not thoſe rebellious Fellows that made the Tumult, pretend they did it for the Church?

Obſ. What of all that, *Roger?* I ſuppoſe there's no Body will deny it?

Country-m. Then, Maſter, I prove my Charge unanſwerably. In the very Office of the Day which *Sacheverell* ſo impiouſly perverted, I mean the 5th of *November*, the Church of *England* condemns his Doctrine, and declares ſhe does ſo to God himſelf. Read it, Maſter, the Words are theſe:

'Accept alſo, moſt gracious God, of our unfeign'd Thanks for filling our Hearts again with Joy and Gladneſs, after the Time that thou ha'ſt afflicted us, and putting a new Song into our Mouths, *by bringing his late Majeſty upon this Day for the Deliverance of our Church and Nation from Popiſh Tyranny and arbitrary Power.* We adore the Wiſdom and Juſtice of thy Providence, which ſo timely interpos'd in our extream Danger, and diſappointed all the Deſigns of our Enemies.

Now, Maſter, I appeal to all Mankind, whether thoſe Clergy-men be not blaſphemous perjur'd Wretches, who offer Thanks to God for raiſing up the late King *William*, of glorious Memory, to deliver us from Popiſh Tyranny and arbitrary Power by an arm'd Force, wherein the Nation join'd with him againſt the late King *James*, and yet at the ſame Time preach up the *utter Illegality of reſiſting a Prince, or any commiſſion'd by him, on any Pretence* what-

whatever, and must not their Mob be the most rebellious and hypocritical Wretches on Earth, that join in this Thanksgiving, and yet rise in Rebellion to maintain the contrary Doctrine? Does not all the World know, that King *William* not only resisted that Popish Tyranny and arbitrary Power, but put it to Flight? Did not the Nation concur with him in it? Did he not afterwards drive King *James* out of *Ireland* by Force of Arms, when, contrary to their senseless Notion of a voluntary Abdication, he came to recover his Crown? And was not King *William* in Danger of his Life by a Cannon-Bullet, when he routed him at the *Boyn*? Then pray, Master, what Names can be too hard for those Men, who thank God for doing that by King *William*, which at the same Time they preach and say is a damnable Sin? Does not this blasphemously make God the Author of Rebellion? And can there be a more outragious and flagrant Piece of Hypocrisy upon Earth, than to thank him for what they say he has damn'd? Is not this to pronounce Cursing and Blessing out of the same Mouth against God and the Government? In my Opinion, Master, it exceeds the Blasphemy of the Devil, when he perverted Scripture to tempt our Saviour.

But farther, Master, read the next Prayer, which is thus: 'Almighty God and Heavenly Father, 'who of thy gracious Providence and tender Mer'cy towards us, didst prevent the Malice and Ima'ginations of our Enemies, by discovering and con'founding their horrible and wicked Enterprizes 'plotted and intended this Day, to be executed a'gainst the King and the whole State of the Realm, 'for the Subversion of the Religion and Government 'establish'd among us; and didst likewise upon 'this Day wonderfully conduct thy Servant our 'late King, and bring him safely into this King'dom, to preserve us from the late Attempts of our 'Enemies to bereave us of our Religion and Laws. 'We most humbly praise and magnify thy most 'glorious Name for thy unspeakable Goodness to'wards us, express'd in both these Acts of thy 'Mercy.

Then the following Prayer in Time of War and Tumults is every Whit as remarkable, and condemns the Faction of the most tremendous Hypocrisy that ever was heard of.

'O Lord, who didst this Day discover the Snares 'of Death that were laid for us, and didst won'derfully deliver us from the same, be thou still 'our mighty Protector, and *scatter our Enemies that 'delight in Blood, infatuate and defeat their Councils, 'abate their Pride, assuage their Malice, and confound 'their Devices*, strengthen the Hands of our graci'ous Sovereign Queen *Anne*, and all that are put 'in Authority under her, with Judgment and Ju'stice to cut off all such Workers of Iniquity, as 'turn *Religion into Rebellion, and Faith into Faction*, 'that they may never prevail against us, or triumph 'in the Ruin of thy Church among us, *&c.*

Now, Master, was there ever such Hypocrisy in the World as the Faction is guilty of, to join in those Prayers, and at the same Time to rise in Rebellion and Tumults, and, as our honourable Patriots the Commons express it in their Address, they could not patiently sit still, and see the Faction 'reflect upon the Justice of the late happy Re'volution, and the Glory of our late Royal Deli'verer, to strike at her Majesty's undoubted Title 'and Administration, by which so many Blessings 'are deriv'd upon us, to endeavour to render it 'odious to the People, as destructive of the Church 'and Constitution, to undermine the present Esta'blishment and Protestant Succession, to treat the 'Resolutions of Parliament with Contempt, to 'vilify and asperse the Governors of the Church, 'and her Majesty as supream, to expose the Tole'ration as wicked, and Sedition, insolently inva'ding the Pulpit?

Shall any good Subject sit still then, Master, and not expose the Faction in their proper Colours? Or can they be painted too black?

Obs. I confess, *Roger*, you have expos'd them to Purpose; you may well bid Defiance to *Sacheverell*, and his Faction, to answer the Proofs you have brought against them, from those Prayers of the Church; they can never, without Impudence to the highest Degree, alledge the Authority of the Church of *England* any more in Defence of their slavish Doctrine, which she has so expressly condemn'd, and thanks God for being deliver'd from in her Liturgy. Nor ought they any more to alledge the Authority of the University of *Oxford* for them, since so many thousands of those Prayers have been printed at the University-Press; and since the late glorious Queen *Mary* order'd those Forms to be added for the future to the Liturgy of the Church of *England*, the 6th Day of *October*, 1692, which is counter-sign'd by her Majesty's Command. *NOTTINGHAM.*

At the same Time I cannot but observe, *Roger*, that God has heard the Prayers of those Sons of Blood against themselves, has infatuated and defeated their Councils, abated their Pride, assuag'd their Malice, and confounded their Devices, since they are as guilty as any Party in the World ever was of turning Religion into Rebellion, and Faith into Faction. We have Reason to bless his Name for it, since 'tis evident they involv'd us in Fire, and design'd to have done it farther, by preparing Materials for raising a Fire in Mr. *Wright*'s Meeting-House, laid Straw, Rushes, and Links under the Galleries and Pews, they had cut to pieces there, which, if it had not been prevented in Time by the Guards, might have endanger'd the whole City, considering that Meeting is situated in so close a Part of the Town. 'Tis also observable, that tho' they design'd the Murther of several Persons of Note, whom they nam'd, that Providence order'd it so, as no Blood was shed but their own: But more of these Things another Time, *Roger.*

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